

SAD MYSTERY
NOW SOLVEDAfter Sixteen Years Absence Lost
Boy is Found

SOME LOCAL INTEREST

Three-Year-old Louis Rowland, Stolen From
Parents, is Restored near Kissimmee
Lived Near Fort Pierce.

Early one morning, sixteen years ago, little Louis Rowland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Needham Rowland, who was three years old, was riding a "stick" horse in front of his parents' residence, near Gardner, about twenty-five miles south of Kissimmee, while his mother was preparing the morning meal. When the little family were ready to take their places at the table, the mother went to the door and called "Willie! Willie! come to breakfast!" but no answer came from childish lips. The mother then remembered that she had seen her son, who was her first born, going in the direction of a clump of scrub palmetto, and at once went in search, calling to her husband to "Come and help find Willie."

That search lasted for sixteen years, and every man, boy and many women in that county have never ceased in their efforts, although many had years ago given the little fellow up for lost to this world, believing that he had fallen prey to some wild animal. But not so with the parents, and especially the mother, who continually said that her baby boy was still living, and prayed to God night and morning to turn her footsteps toward the path that would lead to her darling child.

That prayer was answered, and in Kissimmee, after sixteen long and weary years of heartaching, Louis was again clasped in the arms of his mother and fondled by his father.

The story in this case reads more like a romance than a fact, but here it is from the lips of T. A. Bass, Jr., of Fort Myers, in whose employ Rowland has been for over a year:

"When Mrs. Rowland was a young and comely miss, she became engaged to a man by the name of Ivey Bird, and intended marrying him when she reached the proper age, but as she grew into maturity she met and loved Mr. Needham Rowland, an industrious, honest and hardworking farmer, whom she married after a short courtship.

"This angered Ivey Bird, and he is alleged to have told Mrs. Rowland that she would shed more tears than ever woman shed before; but she gave little thought to his threat, and let the incident pass out of her mind. But not so with Bird, for it is said he bided his time, and when the opportunity arrived, struck the blow that would leave the deepest and most lasting wound—for he is supposed to have carried away her first born and given him to his brother, Jason Bird, who was married and lived on the east coast, near Fort Pierce.

"The little fellow lived with the Birds until he was twelve years old, and was known as their son, and called Louis Bird. At the age of twelve he ran away from Jason Bird and his wife on account of ill-treatment, and went to Tantie, which is on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee, where he worked for L. M. Raulerson for a year, and then went to live with Peter Raulerson, with whom he remained something over four years. From there Louis went to Fort Myers and secured a position with T. A. Bass, Jr., and has remained in that gentleman's employ ever since.

"About ten months ago some gentlemen from Osceola county who knew that Mr. Rowland had lost a son many years ago, went to Fort Myers, and while there saw Louis Bird, and at once recognized the striking resemblance to Mr. Rowland, remarking that they believed he was the lost child. When these gentlemen returned they went to Gotha, where Mr. and Mrs. Rowland now live, and told them of the resemblance of Louis to them, and Mr. Rowland left at once for Fort Myers.

"As soon as he saw Louis he knew him to be his son, but the boy who had grown to be a man, and had always been known as the son of Jason Bird, could not be convinced he was any other person than whom he was claimed to be, so Mr. Rowland returned home and took his wife to Fort Myers to see Louis, and she, too, knew him to be their long lost son, but still the boy was not convinced, and continued to live and be known as Louis Bird.

"Mr. Rowland after returning, wrote often to Louis, and then the young man began to think of the details of his past life, many of which seemed trivial at the time, but when closely looked into, bore evidence that he was the son of Jason Bird, one of which was that once, years ago Jason Bird, in a fit of anger, declared 'You are nothing but a Rowland brat!'

"About ten days ago Louis received a letter from Mr. Rowland saying that he was satisfied he was his son, which Louis read to Mr. Bass, and asked him what he thought about the matter, and Mr. Bass answered, 'I think you are the same as I have thought all these years, that you are the son of Needham

Rowland, for you are exactly like him in looks and ways.' Louis said he thought so; too, as did his wife; that he had been looking all through his past life and he knew he was not the son of Jason Bird."

Mr. Bass then told Louis that he would go to Kissimmee with him and settle the matter definitely, which they did, arriving the night of the 14th. Mr. and Mrs. Rowland had in the meantime been notified to be in Kissimmee the following day. On that morning father, mother and son met, and went into all the details of their past lives, where every incident connected with the disappearance of the baby boy was gone over, and when the conference was ended, they were all fully satisfied that the lost had been found, and parents and child were, after sixteen years, reunited.

Willie Rowland returned to Fort Myers on the evening train but told his father and mother that the time was short until he would be with them to remain for all time. Louis married a daughter of Wm. Raulerson in December, 1910, and is the happy father of a baby boy, born a few weeks ago. And such is the happy ending of what to the people of Osceola county has been the greatest and saddest mystery that has ever enveloped that community—Kissimmee Gazette.

Col. Budd the Baseball Enthusiast

In spite of the prolonged illness of Col. J. F. Budd at his home in Burlington, N. J., the past summer, he had no more than gotten settled in his Fort Pierce home than his baseball spirit became active, and in response to a delegation of boys who visited him he offered to furnish suits for a junior baseball team. He has asked the boys to organize under the name of the Rosebudd Baseball club, and get busy in practicing so that they can successfully challenge the teams from Jensen, White City, Vero, Sebastian or any other town. The Colonel is almost ready to bet that he will knock a home run from the first straight ball that passes over the home plate.

Remember, eight o'clock on Thanksgiving night at the Crystal.

WAILES CLAIM BEFORE
THE SUPREME COURT

A Tallahassee dispatch says: The Wailes case was argued before the supreme court of the State of Florida by Attorney General Trammell, representing the comptroller, who in turn represents the State, and Congressman Frank Clark for Colonel Wailes, on an appeal from Judge Malone's denial of mandamus proceedings to compel the comptroller to audit and settle the Wailes claim for 15 per cent commission on collection of the Indian war claims from the national government for the State of Florida.

The attorney general took the ground that the legislature having assumed jurisdiction and appropriated \$25,000 as full payment for Colonel Wailes' claim the courts could not disturb that settlement.

Congressman Clark contended with great earnestness that the action of the legislature constituted an impairment of Colonel Wailes' claim and was therefore null and void, and insisted that the constitution and laws in force, when the contract was executed afford an abundant remedy if the comptroller is ordered to act thereunder. The court took the matter under advisement. Colonel Wailes' claim is for approximately \$160,000 and has been pending for years. The legislature of 1909 appropriated \$25,000 for payment, a portion of that sum to go to the Beard estate. Colonel Wailes refused to accept the money and the legislature of 1911 appropriated the same sum, all of it to go to Colonel Wailes. He still refused what he claims to be but a small per cent of the money due him from the State under contract.

LYCEUM ATTRACTION
TO-MORROW EVENING

The first number of the Alkahest Lyceum course to be presented to the people of Fort Pierce at the Improvement club hall for the season of 1911-12 will be that of the Cavenys, consisting of J. Franklin Caveny, crayon artist, clay moulder and impersonator, and Marie M. Caveny, soprano soloist and pianist, who will appear to-morrow (Saturday) evening, November, 25th. J. Franklin Caveny, the famous cartoonist, clay-modeler and impersonator, is too well known to need any introduction. Since his appearance on the lyceum platform twelve years ago he has risen steadily in the public favor; his praises have been sung from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Another and extremely popular portion of the preformances is Marie M. Caveny. This young woman has an expressive soprano voice of great range and beauty. Some of her songs are illustrated by Mr. Caveny's rapid and skillful hands. Mrs. Caveny is also a pianist of rare accomplishment. The whole program offers an evening of varied and continued interest.

Follow the crowd on Thanksgiving night to the Crystal theatre. Fine music, fine show, and a worthy benefit.

OUR GOVERNOR
THE BACHELORHarry Floyd Tells Him to Get A
Wife and be Happy

FINE TRIBUTE TO WOMEN

Brilliant Attorney Says: "You, Governor,
Live Like Ten Cents Worth of Ice in
a Lonely Room in a Hotel"

Writing under the far-fetched caption of "My Experiences in the Legislature," Hon. C. H. B. Floyd, of the Fort Pierce law firm of Floyd & Fee, contributes the following to the Apalachicola Times, which is by far the most readable of any of the series thus far published:

"Governor Gilchrist was left out of the previous chapters and when at the Leon hotel in Tallahassee, feeling sure that he was dropping into an incurable melancholy, I obtained his permission to do an essay on 'The Bachelor' apropos of him.

"He said he would not get angry or hurt me.

"All of the time, I respect only two things—physical violence and death.

"Each of these get my angry; otherwise, rocky mountain. Each of these give me the hook.

"The fact is that I had already torn into small pieces two articles on the Married State apropos of the Governor. I already knew that I wasn't going to get anything from the Governor because he refused to re-appoint me on his military staff. I didn't care anything for it intrinsically but it made an impression on Walter Roberts and Rognat Sangree. He respectfully declined and appointed J. M. Barrs instead. My vanity told me that the Governor, being martial only in time of peace, got cold feet, being scared that I would use the useless sword of the Colonel-on-the-staff and split him through the stomach therewith, as I had just returned from my junior term in the University of Insanity and there 'haint no telling what we are agwine to do now.

"So I tore up the articles wherein and whereby I defended the holy state of matrimony at the expense of Chief Bachelor of the State of Florida 'cause I was scared—he being bigger than my wife's husband, he might do me physical damage, of which I have as afore-said, a healthy fear.

"What profiteth it a Gilchrist to gain the whole Governorship and lose his happiness? The bitterest portion of the defeat and killing of Saul to David was the prospect that someone would tell it to the maidens of Ascalon. When I was king of Babylon and you were a Slave in my palace the best part of my victory was telling you of it. When I was King of the bar at Apalachicola (I do not mean Shannahan's bar) to come home and tell my wife of a victory over Burdine or Owen—that was very good!

"What if one have the wizardry of Shakespeare, what if one's thoughts like bees rob every blossom in the world, if one have no tent royal wherein lives an empress to bring home to her the booty with merry march? O Governor! No wonder you leave vacant the mansion in Tallahassee to the monkeys and bats and the shivering owls! Why the trees of the mansion should droop, not with dreary moss but long trailing swings in which your tail sons could frisk to and fro and let the old cat die. A barren scepter is put within your grasp, no son of yours succeeding! Why, your celibacy is a reflection on the fairest creation of God! It is a positive sacrilege. Read Venus and Adonis, I pray you.

"Listen—God made the beauty of the puffsballs we call stars; and the endless ocean of space; and the shining rivers; and the solemn trees that do them homage on their banks; and the trembling lily on the river brim; and the long delicious cry of the cardinal in the (continued on page 8)

WOODROW WILSON
CALL OF DEMOCRACY

Gov. Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, will be the candidate of the Democratic party for the Presidency of the United States next year, and will be nominated on the first ballot by the national convention, which will probably assemble at Kansas City or Chicago.

This prediction is warranted by several important developments of the past few days. The outcome is already accepted by those familiar with the inside workings of the Democratic party, and it is very likely that within a few weeks the inevitable band wagon movement will be started for the New Jersey candidate, gathering added momentum as it rolls along through the months between now and the assembling of the convention.

The sudden realization among the national politicians that Wilson will be nominated is due to two causes. First it is believed by the leaders of the Democratic party that he is the only man in the organization having a

chance of defeating President Taft for re-election. The Republican leaders are now so confident that they question whether any body can defeat the President.

Second, the crisis has arrived in the progress of the contest for the Presidential nomination of next summer when the leaders in the various States and in Congress must declare where they stand, if they hope to secure those big favors which come mainly to those who "get in on the ground floor." Thus, during the past week Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, announced that he favored Wilson. This means that the New Jersey Governor will certainly get the vote of Mississippi in the convention. The Senators of Virginia, the native state of Wilson and the heads of the Democratic organization there have declared for him in the hope that the Old Dominion may have an eighth President of the United States. Florida is with Wilson. It is more than likely that Texas will be also. Louisiana is very conservative, and always slow in declaring herself. She may remain in the Harmon camp. The West will be with Wilson, and all that part of the Middle West which is not controlled so far as the Democratic organization is concerned by conservative influences. In New York State Murphy will, it is thought, hold the delegation for a trade. He will probably be found with the Democratic "allies" opposed to the nomination of Wilson. Some of those apparent "allies" may drop out in the meantime and their followers hop on the Wilson bandwagon. The political changes in the past few months have been kaleidoscopic, but it is regarded by experienced observers that the lines formed in organization and policy for the campaign of 1912 will now hold and only become more firm as time passes. The nomination of President Taft again is assured. The recent meeting of the insurgents at Chicago is looked upon as a fizzle. Less than 200 representatives of the opponents of the President were present. With President Taft and Governor Wilson facing each other, it is conceded that the coming contest will be more bitterly fought and exciting than any since that of 1896.

THANKSGIVING PLAY
AT CRYSTAL THEATRE

"All for Her-Sake," a four-act society drama, will be presented by local theatrical talent in the Crystal theatre, Thanksgiving evening.

This is the most pretentious play and the largest caste ever attempted by our local talent.

The story is one of absorbing interest and offers a clever combination of human passion with the more artificial but equally absorbing stress of social and financial life. It is of strong emotional and dramatic interest and is essentially modern in spirit.

In the caste are Mrs. E. E. Rollins, Mrs. C. M. Horton, Miss Louise Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Sullivan, Messrs. Philo Eldred, Geo. Backus, J. K. Williams, Walter Hellier and Dr. VanLandingham.

The Pomeroy orchestra will furnish excellent music during the evening.

As a part of the proceeds are to go towards the purchase of a piano for the school, this entertainment should be well patronized by the public. The school girls will have for sale next week tickets that are not good as passes but are good in exchange for reserved seat tickets by paying a bonus of fifteen cents or in an exchange for a general admission ticket the night of the show. The curtain will rise promptly at eight o'clock in order that those who desire, may attend the dance at the Improvement club hall after the play. Tickets on sale Tuesday at St. Lucie drug store. 25, 35, and 50 cents.

Remember, the curtain rises promptly at eight o'clock on Thanksgiving night so be in your seats at five minutes before eight.

FLORIDA ORANGES
FOR THANKSGIVING

A Chicago dispatch to The Packer, says:

The trade is expecting a very unusual citrus fruit season this year because of the effect the new green fruit ruling will have on California oranges. Reports have been received by several local operators which indicate that no new oranges will be on the Chicago market until after the first of December, owing to the fact that green stock cannot be colored and shipped as it has been in previous years. Ordinarily a good supply of California oranges is on the market before Thanksgiving, but large shippers on the coast report there will be none of their fruit here in time for the holiday this year.

The situation will, on the other hand, work a harvest for Florida and other southern shippers, according to the general opinion expressed here this week. The southern fruit is usually coming freely and ripe by the time Thanksgiving day arrives, and with the shipments from Florida and the other points near it, dealers believe they are going to have a hard time meeting the demands which almost always increase toward the end of the month, and they say prices will have to adjust themselves accordingly.

GROWERS' GAG
CONVENTIONOrange County Citizen Reports
Recent Meeting at Orlando

CARPET-BAG METHODS

Growers Who Were Not "Against the Ex-
change" Excluded, While Buyers,
and Commission Men Voted

"It has been the editor's misfortune," says the Orange County Citizen, "to attend many a political convention in years past, where stated measures were railroaded through in violence to rules, but for pure, downright, barefaced, unmitigated convention-stuffing, the so-called 'Citrus Growers' Convention, held in Orlando, November 4th, beat anything on record.

"1st. The convention was called for citrus growers, without distinction. There were 150 persons in the hall in the morning session, largely local people, among them the carpet-baggers who brought with them the dope in a hand satchel, a good representation of commission men, orange brokers and buyers, railroad men, and a fair representation of actual growers, Exchange men and Independents.

"2nd. Qualification for membership and the privilege of voting was confined to those who agreed to vote against the Citrus Exchange, the question being asked each person in the hall and their names written on an unheaded paper. Thus, the action of the meeting was determined at the outset and each qualified voter was bound to vote for the object of the meeting, namely: 'Against the Exchange.' 'Are you in sympathy with this,' asked the committeeman of the editor. 'No,' said the editor. The teller then passed on.

"3rd. The hall was stuffed with orange brokers, buyers, and their sympathizers; the afternoon session, when the business was finally transacted, having only about ninety present, many of the morning attendants became disgusted.

"4th. The boss and chief manipulator was the attorney for the East Coast Railway, with which the Citrus Exchange is at suit in law for the recovery of thousands of dollars loss to orange growers, a good reason enough why he should destroy the prosecutor, and a relative of the man now under indictment for violation of the Green Fruit Law. 'Blood will tell,' even in a green blood orange.

"5th. A chairman was selected who though he may have intended right, did not understand parliamentary law and easily fell into the wily clutches of the chief manipulator.

"6th. The committees were pre-arranged and the Bossman was careful to be on the most important, i. e., the condemnation proceedings, and the resolutions show his fine handiwork, even to the commendation of the buyers and shippers of his choice.

"7th. The whole convention was carried on by Boss St. Clair Abrams, who spent an hour and twenty minutes in a tirade against the Exchange, damning it in the choicest of expletives, charging undreamed of villainies to the officers and declaring it to be the agent of the California Exchange to demoralize and destroy the orange industry of Florida. The balance of his frenzied spellbinding was devoted to the denunciation of the Florida Legislature; and the quality of the man and his trustworthiness as a leader may be easily gauged from the fact that he said he 'never committed a perjury but he might be willing to do so to avoid having it known that he one time served in the State Senate.' He vilified the law, the legislature and the lawmakers as tools in the hands of the Citrus Exchange, egged on by the California Exchange. Of course this is mighty good reading for the members of the legislature, for Senator L. C. Massey, who drew the law and the many honorable men who supported it.

"8th. At the very time the prepared resolutions were under discussion the chairman, under the pressure of the Boss, totally ignored an amendment moved by Mr. Hawthorne, a qualified voter, to change the wording of the first section (which was the pith of the whole fight) and after plainly stating the amendment, violated the ordinary parliamentary rules by putting the question the main resolution, instead of the amendment. The chair also ignored a motion of Mr. Walter Drennen, which was seconded by another qualified voter, prohibiting the commission men, buyers and railroad men from voting. Mr. Drennen accepting an amendment prohibiting Citrus Exchange men voting also, and confining the vote to independent orange growers. The failure to recognize this motion proved the whole fermentation of the sour mash, inevitably placed upon record the dishonest procedure. Despite all this and the earnest and manly protests of Messrs. Braxton Beacham, James L. Giles and Mr. Hawthorne, independent growers, that words less drastic should be employed in the resolution, the chairman was not permitted to recognize them, proving that the meeting (continued on page 6)